

REMARKS

Claims 37-39, 43 and 84-155 are currently pending in this application.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has taken the position that restriction of the originally filed claims is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121. The Examiner has indicated that the originally filed claims are drawn to several distinct inventions which include:

- (i) Group I - claims 1, 3, 4 and 10;
- (ii) Group II - claims 6-7, 13, 44 and 47;
- (iii) Group III - claims 9, 40-41, 45 and 48;
- (iv) Group IV - claims 11, 42 and 49;
- (v) Group V - claims 15 and 26;
- (vi) Group VI - claims 37-39 and 43;
- (vii) Group VII - claims 50 and 52;
- (viii) Group VIII - claims 54 and 68;
- (ix) Group IX - claims 69 and 70;
- (x) Group X - claims 71 and 77-79; and
- (xi) Group XI - claims 80 and 83.

The Applicant hereby elects the invention of Group VI (claims 37-39 and 43) without traverse.

The Applicant has added new claims 84-155 for consideration by the Examiner. New claims 84-155 are submitted to relate to one invention. These new claims include claims 84 and 126 which are generic to all claims currently pending in this application. The Applicant submits that new claims 84-155 are fully supported by the disclosure and contain no new matter.

The Applicant has amended claims 37-39 to make them depend from new independent claim 126 and has amended claim 43 to make it depend from new independent claim 84.

Conclusions

In view of the amendments presented above, the Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

37. (Once Amended) A method [for directing any one of a plurality of input optical signals to any one of a plurality of output signal channels in an optical cross-connect switch, which comprises detecting a Moiré interference pattern and determining therefrom a position of at least one element in said switch,] according to claim 126 wherein said selected moveable output optical element is capable of at least one of: directing said [one] selected output optical channel [so as] to receive said [one] input optical [channel] communication signal and directing said [one] input optical communication signal [so as] to be received by said [one] selected output optical channel.
38. (Once Amended) A method [for directing any one of a plurality of input optical signals to any one of a plurality of output signal channels in an optical cross-connect switch, which comprises detecting a Moiré interference pattern and determining therefrom a position of] according to claim 126 wherein the selected moveable output optical element comprises at least one of: a receiving end of [said one] the selected output optical channel and a transmitting end of [an] a selected input [signal] optical channel associated with [said one] the input optical communication signal.
39. (Once Amended) A method [of establishing optical communication in an optical cross-connect switch between a first optical fiber and a second optical fiber selected from a plurality of optical fibers, said method comprising the step of detecting a Moiré interference pattern and determining therefrom a position of] according to claim 126 wherein the selected moveable output optical element comprises at least one of: (a) an end of [said] a first optical fiber associated with the selected output optical channel; (b) an end of [said] a second optical fiber, the second optical fiber associated with a selected input optical channel that emitted the input optical communication signal; and (c) an optical element operative to influence an optical path of the input optical communication signal between said first and second optical fibers [; and (d) a plurality of optical elements operative to influence an optical path between said first and second optical fibers].
43. (Once Amended) [An optical fiber cross-connect] A switch [comprising first and second groups of optical fiber switching units, disposed in optically opposing relation, each of a plurality of the switching units in one of said first and second groups further comprising (a) an optical fiber operative to conduct optical signals; and (b) a position encoder operative to detect Moiré interference pattern and determine therefrom] according to claim 84 wherein each position encoder is operative to determine, from the corresponding output control signal, a position of at least one of: (i) an end of [said] an optical fiber corresponding to the associated output optical channel; and (ii) [a] an optical element operative to influence an optical path of optical communications signals associated with said fiber [; and (iii) a plurality of optical elements operative to influence an optical path of optical signals associated with said signal emitted from or coupled into the fiber].